

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20418

January 15, 1975

Academician M. V. Keldysh
President
Academy of Sciences of the USSR
Leninskiy prospekt 14
Moscow, USSR

Dear President Keldysh:

Following my letter to you of September 11 seeking your support for initiatives taken by Soviet and American theoretical physicists to identify profitable areas for joint research, Professor David Pines and Dr. Conyers Herring had fruitful discussions in Moscow with Academician A. M. Prokhorov and Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR I. M. Khalatnikov in the early part of October. I am informed that they agreed on the desirability of establishing joint US-USSR study groups on special topics in theoretical physics and that Academician Prokhorov informed Drs. Pines and Herring that your Academy favors the establishment of two such groups, which would be sponsored by the US-USSR Joint Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation but would operate under the direct supervision of our two Academies. It was agreed that the first two joint study groups would be in the fields of solid-state theory and of theoretical relativistic astrophysics and that during the first year of their operation (1975) the group on relativistic astrophysics would meet in the USSR while that on solid-state theory would meet in the USA.

The recommendations resulting from these talks were reported to the members of the US-USSR Joint Commission on Scientific and Technical Cooperation at their meeting in Washington, October 24-25, and the Commission endorsed the enterprise, as reported in the Commission's record of the meeting. Subsequently, the governing body of this Academy formally approved of our sponsorship, jointly with your Academy, of this project. We have now also learned that funds will be available to us to meet our financial responsibilities for the conduct of this project in 1975.

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In view of all of these positive developments, I am pleased to confirm the willingness of this Academy to join with your Academy in assuming responsibility for the two study groups this year. Accordingly, I propose for your consideration the following details concerning their operation:

1. Each study group would include at least five senior scientists from each country, with the composition of the group to be jointly determined by the Soviet and US co-chairmen of the group.
2. The sending side will provide participants from its country with international transportation, while the receiving side will meet all necessary expenses within the country in which the study will take place.
3. During 1975, the study group on solid-state theory (with the suggested topic of "Conductivity and Superconductivity in Quasi One-Dimensional Systems") would meet in the USA, at the Aspen Center for Physics, Aspen, Colorado, for two to three months during the period June 15 - October 1, 1975; while during the same period the study group on relativistic astrophysics (with the suggested topic "Physics of Compact X-ray Sources") would meet for one to two months in the USSR.
4. During the second year of their operation (1976), the physical location of the joint study groups would be reversed, with the solid-state group meeting in the USSR and the relativistic astrophysics group meeting in the USA.
5. Professor David Pines, Dr. Conyers Herring, and Professor Rip S. Thorne are the members of this Academy's planning group on theoretical physics. I have asked Drs. Herring and Pines to serve as co-chairmen of the US element of the joint study group on solid-state theory and Professors Pines and Thorne (California Institute of Technology) to serve as co-chairmen of the US element of the joint study group on relativistic astrophysics. They are prepared to enter into correspondence with their Soviet co-chairmen concerning further details of the operation of these groups.

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I believe that the establishment of joint study groups in theoretical physics represents a significant step forward in the relations between the scientists of our countries. It is a logical development out of our long-standing exchange program. We therefore see great merit in this project not only for its scientific content but also as a harbinger of a direction in which our Academy's efforts might increasingly turn.

Once again I enlist your own cooperation for the successful launching of this new project and request an early confirmation of your Academy's partnership in the organization and conduct of the study groups.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely yours,

Original signed by
Philip Handler

Philip Handler
President

LCM/lw